

I mistakenly crushed my wife with car, killer husband tells police

Matthew Agbaje

THE police have arrested a father of seven, Azeez Balogun, over the death of his wife, Tawa, in the Itire area of Ajangbadi, Lagos State.

PUNCH Metro gathered that Balogun's neighbours and residents accused him of constantly subjecting Tawa, who was said to be his second wife, to

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cassava sticks for wasting his time. I was crying and left the farm. It was passersby who saw me that took me to a hospital and later informed my parents."

The police prosecutor, Taiwo Ajibulu, called five witnesses and tendered the statements of the defendant, a medical report, pants, tight and shirts as exhibits.

The defendant, who spoke through his counsel, called no witness.

In the court judgment, Justice Adeniyi Familoni, said, "I hold that the totality of evidence adduced by the prosecution has proved the rape of the prosecutrix (victim) beyond reasonable doubt. The defendant richly deserved the legal consequence of his misdeed.

"Therefore, the defendant, Tobi Owajulu, is hereby sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment without any fine option."

torture, whenever an argument ensued between them.

A day before Tawa's death, Balogun was said to have beaten her, as neighbours claimed that she screamed for help.

According to a post on an *Instagram* platform, *Instabloggja*, the deceased gave birth to three children while the first wife had four children. Tawa reportedly cared for all seven children.

A video clip attached to the post showed as residents and neighbours gathered to mourn Tawa's passing.

The person who recorded the clip lamented that Balogun abandoned his wife's corpse at his residence and fled.

"See what happened at Itire, Ajangbadi. Husband beat his wife till she died; called his wife's family members to come and carry her dead body, abandoned the dead body and absconded," the resident said.

Another resident, while recording himself, said Balogun went to report himself at the Agbara Police Station (Ogun State), adding that Balogun's neighbours attested to him maltreating his wife.

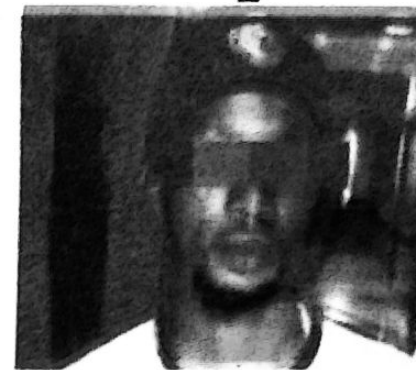
He said, "We went to Ajangbadi Police Station to report what happened, but the policemen at the station refused to attend to us and asked us to report the matter at the Agbara Police Station.

"What we gathered was that the guy was at Agabra Police Station, but we don't believe the claim. He opened up that he killed his wife, but was not sounding remorseful at all. It was his wife's sister that he called to carry her corpse. It was when the younger brother of his wife came that he ran away.

"The police questioned him as to why he was fond of beating his wife. We told him to come and bury his wife, but he refused. He didn't come for his wife's burial and none of his family members came."

The Ogun State Police Public Relations Officer, Abimbola Oyeyemi, said Balogun had been arrested, adding that investigation was ongoing.

He said, "According to the testimony of the husband of the



• Balogun

victim, he mistakenly knocked down the wife with his car when she helped him to open the gate while he was driving out of the compound.

"We have yet to ascertain if the suspect lost control or mistakenly hit the wife as a result of brake failure or had other ulterior motives, but investigation is still ongoing to uncover the true cause of the incident that led to the death of his wife."

Police inspector arraigned for killing sergeant

Babatunde Titilola

A police inspector, Monday Gabriel, has been arraigned before the Lagos State High Court sitting at the Tafawa Balewa Square over the alleged murder of his colleague, identified only as Sergeant Felix.

He was arraigned on Tuesday on one count of murder.

The prosecution, led by L.S. Sani, said Gabriel shot the victim to death on May 13, 2020, adding that

the offence was punishable under Section 222 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015.

The charge read, "That you, Monday Gabriel, on or about 13th of May 2020, around 4:30am at ERS Head Office, Awolowo Way, Ikoyi, in the Lagos judicial district, did unlawfully kill one Sergeant Felix by shooting him dead with a gun."

The defendant pleaded not guilty to the charge.

Justice Sherifat Sonaike adjourned the case till October 26 for trial.